

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 05136 052223Z

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1993

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EC

SUBJECT: STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE IN PROTEST OF INCREASED BUS FARES

1. STUDENT PROTESTS AGAINST 20 CENTAVO (LESS THAN ONE CENT U.S.) INCREASE IN BUS FARES CONTINUED TODAY. PROTESTS BEGAN AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT OF INCREASES AUGUST 1 AS STUDENTS DUMPED LARGE ROCKS AND SAND IN STREETS NEAR MAIN CENTRAL UNIVERSITY CAMPUS. PASSING CARS AND BUSES WERE TARGETS OF ROCKS AND FIRES WERE LIT IN STREETS IN AREA OF NEARBY SAN CARLOS MARKET. ONE VEHICLE WAS BURNED AND MANY BUSES DAMAGED. URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION WAS SERIOUSLY DISRUPTED IN SOME SECTORS.

2. STUDENTS EMPLOYING SAME TACTICS ON CAMPUS OF MEDICAL FACULTY, ADJACENT TO IMPORTANT CITY TRAFFIC ARTERY, DREW POLICE ONTO CAMPUS. ALTOGETHER, AS OF FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, POLICE CLAIMED SOME 65 STUDENTS HAD BEEN ARRESTED. STUDENTS CLAIMED MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED WERE IN CUSTODY AND THAT PROFESSORS AND UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL HAD BEEN HURT BY POLICE. ONE POLICE OFFICER WAS SHOT WHILE CARRYING OUT HIS DUTIES BUT IS BELIEVED TO BE OUT OF DANGER.

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PAGE 02 QUITO 05136 052223Z

3. AS EXPECTED, DISREGARD OF UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY BY

POLICE DREW CRITICISM AND PROTESTS FROM UNIVERSITY
RECTORS AND VARIOUS LABOR ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER GROUPS.
EDITORIAL CHARGES THAT RATE INCREASES WERE PERMITTED
BECAUSE OWNERS ARE IMPORTANT POLICE AND MILITARY OFFICERS
ARE HEARD REPEATEDLY IN MANY SECTORS. ON OTHER HAND,
ASSOCIATION OF BUS OWNERS ASSERTED IN PAID NEWSPAPER
ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT SINCE 1945 NO INCREASE IN FARES HAS BEEN
GRANTED AND THAT IN FACE OF RISING COSTS AN
INCREASE IS NECESSARY.

4. COMMENT: GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN HAVE MADE IT CLEAR
THEY WILL NOT TOLERATE CONTINUED DISRUPTION OF TRAFFIC
AND VIOLENCE. TRAFFIC IS BEING REROUTED AROUND MAIN
CAMPUS AND POLICE ARE PREPARED TO ENTER MEDICAL
FACULTY AGAIN TO MAINTAIN IMPORTANT ADJACENT STREET
OPEN. DEMONSTRATIONS ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE FOR AWHILE
AT RELATIVELY ISOLATED MAIN CAMPUS BUT SHOULD EVENTUALLY
PETER OUT.

5. STRONG PUBLIC REACTION TO RELATIVELY SMALL FARE
INCREASE IS ILLUSTRATION OF SENSITIVITY OF PUBLIC,
ESPECIALLY LOWER INCOME GROUPS, TO PRICE CHANGES.

BREWSTER

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